

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 207  
By Fowler

A RESOLUTION to recognize and honor Bob Corker for his  
meritorious service as Mayor of Chattanooga.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate for the members of this General Assembly to pause to expressly recognize those venerable public servants who have dedicated themselves to enhancing the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Bob Corker is one such estimable person who has served with distinction as Mayor of Chattanooga; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable tenure as Mayor of Chattanooga, Bob Corker has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his colleagues in government and the community at large; and

WHEREAS, an astute and creative fundraiser, Mayor Corker has helped raise millions of dollars from philanthropists for city projects; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure as Mayor, Bob Corker organized and coordinated the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Riverfront Plan, a stunning \$120,000,000 project to remodel and refurbish the Chattanooga riverfront; and

WHEREAS, the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Riverfront Plan has built new public parks and piers on the Tennessee River, and Riverfront Drive and First Street corridors, walkways, and connections to the arts district have been constructed; the Discovery Museum was renovated, and the Aquarium and Hunter Museum were expanded via this innovative urban planning initiative funded through a unique public-private sector partnership; and

WHEREAS, tackling tough issues with substantive initiatives, Mayor Corker has successfully addressed inner-city education, job creation, economic development issues, social justice issues, governmental efficiency, economic investment, venture capital, crime prevention, budget reorganization, and many other important civic issues; and

WHEREAS, serving as a testament to his deep commitment to education, Mayor Corker developed a public education initiative that focused on nine neglected inner-city elementary schools where student achievement was among the lowest in the State; and

WHEREAS, working with local foundations to fund teacher incentives and instructional reforms, Bob Corker's initiatives have rapidly elevated student achievement scores and attracted many dedicated and able teachers to these schools; and

WHEREAS, a compassionate person who epitomizes the Golden Rule, Bob Corker organized a nationally prominent plan to end chronic homelessness in Chattanooga and an innovative program to help low-income residents apply for earned income tax credits; last year, 2,183 low-income Chattanooga residents received \$2,600,000 back as a result of this program; and

WHEREAS, a public-spirited citizen of the highest order, Bob Corker worked to obtain rare federal Renewal Community tax credits for employing low-income inner-city residents and helping fifteen poor neighborhoods improve their communities; and

WHEREAS, Bob Corker exemplifies the allegiance to family, public service and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, Bob Corker's remarkable success as a public servant and civic leader is directly attributable to his uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life, his reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense, and his proclivity for working from sunrise to sunset; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Bob Corker epitomizes the spirit and character that have earned Tennessee acknowledgment as the "Volunteer State," and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Bob Corker for his laudable and astute service to the City of Chattanooga as Mayor and wish him every success in all future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.